



# SCUTTLEBUTT

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JOE YOUCHA

*Epiphany- A sudden flash of recognition*

After 15 years of working at the Seaport Foundation, I'm struck by how ASF is much more a community than a non-profit corporation. Centered in the DC area, we're a community that extends around the country and around the world.

All spring, this fact has repeatedly been driven home. Almost everything you'll read about in this issue of *Scuttlebutt* happened because of an ASF community member's action. There are big examples, such as all the work that made the Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament a success. There are small acts, such as former apprentices dropping off some old tools for the new apprentices to use. It all comes together and makes our work possible.

I'm also amazed at the reach of our program. This spring, we took some volunteers and apprentices out to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to make two 50 foot masts from some large pine logs. We were helping Sidney Dickson finish up his 25 year project of building the first log bottomed bugeye in 90 years. Working on that type of project, in that setting, is something none of us will forget.

A few days after we got back from Sidney's, I got a phone call from a seminarian who wants to start a youth ministry on the Gulf Coast, based around wooden boat building. He got the idea while spending his Saturdays helping Brian Agricola, an early ASF volunteer, finish his catboat in Tennessee. We're reaching out into places and communities we never thought of-- and it's wonderful. The Hawaiian log canoe builders we worked with two years ago sent a blessing for the launch of our canoe, via e-mail.

We're training young people and connecting them to the jobs that need them. We do it using wooden boats. All the pieces that make the work possible create a community. It's wonderful being in the middle of it all.

## Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament Raises \$17,000 for ASF! (See p.2)



*Howell Crim, Apprentice Program Director, on the Course*

## Boat Raffle Raises over \$2,000

The drawing for the Penobscott 14 daysailer, built and generously donated by member Saul Kaplan, was held at the golf tournament. Barbara Weeks, Paul's Mom, drew Gardner Creech's name out of the hat. (Yes, Gardner's the son of Jay Creech--invaluable shop volunteer, Friend and leader of the Challenge Wherry design.) Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

## Upcoming Events

### Smithsonian Folk Life Festival

June 27 thru July 8

Come see our Log Canoe (See story p.10)

### WoodenBoat Show, Mystic Connecticut

June 29- July 1

We'll be Building the new Challenge Wherry (p.7)

### Corporate Team Boat Building

September 28

(See back page)

### Seaport Day,

September 29

(See back page)

## Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament and Fund

The Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Pohick Bay Regional Golf Course. We had a wonderful turnout with approximately 105 players enjoying a day of golf, barbecue, and prizes- and over \$17,000 was raised to support ASF.

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation would like to give special thanks to all of the sponsors who participated in the event. Without their contributions, the Paul Weeks II Tournament could not have been the success it was. Thank You!

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Union Street Pub  
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Motley Fool  
100 King Restaurant  
Bugsy's  
Landini's  
Fort Dupont Ice Arena  
Nickells & Scheffler  
Potomac Party Cruises*

### Paul Weeks II Memorial Fund

On March 13th, the Seaport Foundation wrote a check for \$87,000, establishing the Paul Weeks II Memorial Fund as a donor-advised fund of the Alexandria Community Trust. The fund's assets are managed by the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region. Distributions of the fund are controlled by an advisory committee consisting of Paul's wife, Pam, his good friend Gus Blanchard, retired Alexandria Juvenile Court Judge Steven Rideout, and two ASF Board of Director members-- Mary Ann Roberts and Rex Wagner. The objective of the fund is to underwrite the costs of one boat building apprentice per year. Each year, the staff of the Seaport Foundation will designate a Paul Week's Apprentice who best demonstrates some of Paul's qualities. Part of the proceeds from this year's golf tournament will cover this year's distribution, so the fund's principal can remain untouched. With existing pledges and anticipated donations, the fund should reach \$120,000 by the end of this year.

## Donations and Support...

### “Friends” of the Seaport Foundation

Telling people about the work we do at ASF, and getting them to become “Friends” of the Seaport Foundation are key to the continued health of the organization. Here’s some of the ways we got word out this Spring

Mary Ann Roberts and Bill Babcock held a wonderful dinner in honor of ASF which resulted in significant donations and renewed interest in ASF’s mission.

Mari Lou Livingood hosted a cocktail party in May for ASF. Many board members were in attendance as well as some new key players who will be very instrumental in supporting the Seaport Foundation in the future.

Steve Hernandez led the April Information Night which was very well attended. His honesty and openness provided for a very powerful experience to those in attendance and resulted in four new members.



*Steve, explaining his work*

### Untied Brotherhood of Carpenters- Local 1665 Donation

After reading about the Seaport Foundation’s apprenticeship program in their local newsletter, the members of Carpenter’s Local 1665 voted to donate one hour of their wages to the program. This \$9,000 donation will cover most of the costs for one appren-

tice. We hope that each fall, we’ll name a “Local 1665” apprentice.

### Christ Church Van

Field trips are a major component of our apprenticeship program. In the past we’ve always loaded the apprentices up in our cars and gone on the trip. Last year’s increase in program size made this impractical. We explored all types of options, including getting our own van. The question was whether the cost justified the use. Manhattan Limousine even donated their services for a trip to the Smithsonian science lab. That was luxurious service, but we couldn’t call them all the time. Enter Christ Church, its rector, Pierce Klempt, and their 15-passenger van. Pierce agreed to letting the Seaport Foundation use the church’s van almost before the question was asked. So far, the van has taken our apprentices on field trips to the new baseball stadium, the National Cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the Carpenters Training Center.

### Gifts in Kind

This spring, the Seaport Foundation was adopted by Richard Wong and his organization, Gifts in Kind. Implementing its name, Gifts in Kind already has brought the Seaport Foundation computer equipment, CAD software, and office supplies. We hope soon to be receiving laptop computers to install in the shop at the Seaport Center. Another example of the Seaport Foundation being a community--the connection to Richard was made through John Porter, Assistant Superintendent of Alexandria Public Schools.

### In Kind Donations

Sometimes we get the greatest phone calls. This spring, Steven Gross called saying that he was closing his cabinet shop and would we like his extra 2,000 board feet of hardwood lumber. Of course we would. The only problem was that it needed to be moved quickly, before the shop building was demolished. Trying to figure out transport overlapped with giving a tour of our facilities to the head of Clark Concrete, Rob Moser. Rob overheard a conversation and offered his services. A few phone calls later, Howell Crim was off to meet the truck and coordinate delivery.

We had another load of wood delivered the weekend before the Paul Weeks II Memorial Golf Tournament. Paul’s brother, Pete, dropped off a trailer load of mahogany. It had been “cluttering up his garage,” so he decided to give it to ASF. Thanks, Pete.

## Apprentice Program

### Apprentice Graduation

Four individuals were graduated from the Apprentice Program at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation on Friday, March 23. Family and friends gathered at the Seaport Center to honor the graduates and celebrate their many accomplishments. Along with their certificates, the boys were awarded new tool boxes to help launch them in their new careers. The following individuals were awarded certificates at the ceremony:

Alfredo Portillo  
Edwin Cruz  
Antonio Roulhac  
Richard Bryan



*The latest graduating class*



*Former apprentice, Milton Chacon, (now a plumber) attends graduation with his young son.*

### Alexandria Seaport Foundation Going Green

John Passacantando, Executive Director of Green Peace USA, and former ASF Board member, made a presentation of "An Inconvenient Truth" in March to the Seaport apprentices and staff. The apprentices and staff had an in-depth discussion of the projections of the future, as given by the award winning documentary.

John talked to the youths about the history and work of Greenpeace, and shared the history of the scientific data that was used to create the movie. The apprentices were engaged in conversation with John about the effects of global warming as described in the presentation. John was objective in his presentation and encouraged the young men to take the information from the movie and make their own conclusions as to the validity of the data and projections of the scientists. He provided an in-depth and up-close account of the process of the collected data which was used as the foundation for the movie before showing the movie itself.

It was great to see the interest the apprentices had not only in the movie, but in John's entire presentation. The apprentices walked away from the presentation deeply concerned about the future of the planet, and how this would affect them and their children, if the current trends as discussed continue without some change in behavior patterns.

We'd like to thank John for taking time out of his busy schedule to come talk to the apprentices and for the book that he left for our library collection.



*John Passacantando, presenting "An Inconvenient Truth"*

## Apprentice Program Cont...

### Duncan Library Provides Academic Enrichment Opportunities

Renee Di Pilato manager of the Duncan Library in Alexandria secured a grant from the Duncan Foundation to support the Library's work with the Seaport Foundation. Staff and Friends of the Duncan Library will provide academic seminars and activities that will enhance learning for those apprentices who are preparing for the GED. Duncan staff will also provide teambuilding and leadership seminars for the apprentices who have already received their GED/ Diploma.

In addition to seminars and planned lesson activities, the funds will also be used to provide needed books for projects and special reports that the apprentices must complete in the academic portion of the program. In the past, Renee has hosted a poetry jam for our apprentices, and she has also invited us to attend special events at Duncan Library. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationship with the Duncan Library in the future. Renee and her staff have been very helpful and supportive of our program. You are invited to come attend the next poetry event which will be scheduled for this summer. (Details will be forthcoming.)

### Odyssey of the Mind: Balsa Project

Our graduates are meant to go out and build. We try and make their time with us as relevant as possible. We also try to challenge them and expand their horizons. This year, we're using a problem from the international competition, Odyssey of the Mind. The basic challenge is to build an 18 gram structure out of 1/8" balsa wood and see how much weight it can hold before it's crushed. We're using this problem to teach basic measuring and geometry, as well as the history of buildings and structural analysis. Initial designs are carrying 100lbs, so far. (The record in Virginia is 1,400 lbs.)



*Under the Crusher!*

### Lunch with the Kiwanis

Tony Gee, Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club, hosted many of our senior apprentices and staff at the March meeting of the Club.

The Kiwanis Club is a long-time supporter of the Seaport Foundation's apprentice program. It was a chance for both groups to meet.

The youth in attendance were able to experience first hand the purpose and process of a civic organization. Many of those in attendance had no idea that the Kiwanis Club existed, nor were they aware of the fact that this was a service organization. The youth were able to see that people in the community do provide a service to members in the community who have a need.

The youth were present during the entire meeting, and had the opportunity to observe the order of business, they enjoyed an excellent meal, and they had an opportunity to meet some community leaders.

The youth did an excellent job of representing the program and have been invited to attend meetings in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Alexandria Kiwanis Club and Tony Gee for their continued support.

### Tutors Needed

There are still opportunities to support the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's apprentice program. Darius is looking for individuals who are willing to work as tutors with the apprentices who need additional academic assistance. You do not have to be a teacher! All you need is the will to want to help someone understand a subject better. If you are interested in tutoring, please contact Darius either by e-mail at [ligon@alexandriaseaport.org](mailto:ligon@alexandriaseaport.org), or by phone at 703-399-1899. There will be a tutoring/mentoring workshop scheduled for the month of July. Please contact us if you are interested.

# Apprentice Program Cont...

## Tiger Continues...

Work on the fantail launch, Tiger, continues. As this is being written, the final planks are going on. The work has gone somewhat slower than expected- due in part to lead apprentice Samuel Lalego being placed in a job with TMG Construction. After a month on the job, Samuel received a two-dollar raise. Tiger misses him, but it's wonderful to see Samuel doing well and enjoying work. By the next *Scuttlebutt*, Tiger should be framed and getting her deck.



Michael Wilson and his crew completing the planking

## Field Trips

Field trips are a major element of the apprentice program. We want to broaden our apprentices' horizons and show them what their future can hold. This means showing them the work they'll be doing as carpenters and the rewards that type of work can bring. This spring we've taken trips to: Hardwood Artisans, the New Baseball Stadium in DC, the National Cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Sidney Dickson's home/boatyard at St. Michael's, MD.



ASF made two 55' masts for Sidney Dickson's new bug-eye, the Katherine May Edwards



Visiting Hardwod Artisans



Tony Embry, Clark Concrete's Superintendent, gave ASF apprentices and staff an in-depth tour of the new baseball stadium.

## Apprentice Program Cont...

### Featured Apprentice

Richard Bryan is our featured apprentice. Richard graduated from our program in January as lead apprentice. Richard also received an Ann Hand Scholarship to The Art League. On Monday nights, he's taking basic drawing. Richard's first job was with Mangenaro, but transportation was an issue and it didn't work out. Due to complicated arrangements with the DMV, Richard wasn't able to get his driver's license until April. ASF was then able to provide him with a car--a Toyota Camry donated by Thomas and Janice Kiernan and processed through our car donation program by Kevin Holland and John Sander. Since then, he's taken off. Richard is now working as a field engineer trainee for Clark Concrete. He's averaging 60 hours of work per week. According to Richard, "It's great." According to his supervisor, "Richard is learning something every two minutes." As it should be.



*Richard Bryan*

### Art Classes at The Art League

John Sander is not only an active volunteer and grant writer with the Seaport Foundation, he's also a very talented artist and carver. Through his connections with the local arts community, John was able to arrange for scholarships at The Art League for some of our more talented apprentices. So far, two apprentices, Richard Bryan and Bitanya Tedenete, have received scholarships. Many thanks go to John and The Art League.

### Challenge Wherry Prototype

Over the years, the Seaport Foundation has been a leader in community and family boat building. The Bevin Skiff was designed to be a boat that was good to build and use in these settings. She certainly has been. As near as we can tell, about 1,000 Bevins have been built in the U.S. and abroad. One thing that can't be done with a Bevin is build it in one day. Ranging from corporations to day camps, many groups can't afford the multi-day building time necessary for a Bevin. Working with other volunteers and some of the apprentices, Jay Creech has come up with ASF's answer: the Challenge Wherry. Combining design elements of the Pisquatauqua Wherry we built two years ago and a light bateau from John Gardner's *The Dory Book*, Jay made about six test models before he had his team build the prototype. The first boat was launched Monday, June 4, and worked very well. A second prototype is underway. Our first group boat building activity with this design will be at the National Wooden Boat Show in Mystic, Connecticut, June 29 and 30. We'll be building five boats on the Green at Mystic Seaport. The Challenge Wherry will also be the focus of our corporate team boat building event, September 28.

*Launching the Challenge Wherry*



## Community Boat Building

This spring, ASF ran several boat building projects out in the community.

### Taylor Elementary--Renewable Boat

Just as the Challenge Wherry addresses the need for a “one day boat,” we answered the request for a boat that could be taken apart and built again. We tested the idea with kids from Taylor Elementary in Arlington. The boat was launched April 21 at Arlington School’s Outdoor Lab in Fauquier County. Volunteer Kevin Holland represented ASF (his grandson goes to Taylor). We should be taking the boat apart by the end of June.



*Kevin Holland, ASF volunteer, explaining the boat at its launch*



*Rob Hindeman, Taylor principal, underway*

### Taking the Boat Apart



*Ryan Harriss pulling screws*



*Scraping off the bedding compound*

# Community Boat Building Cont...



*Everybody ready?*



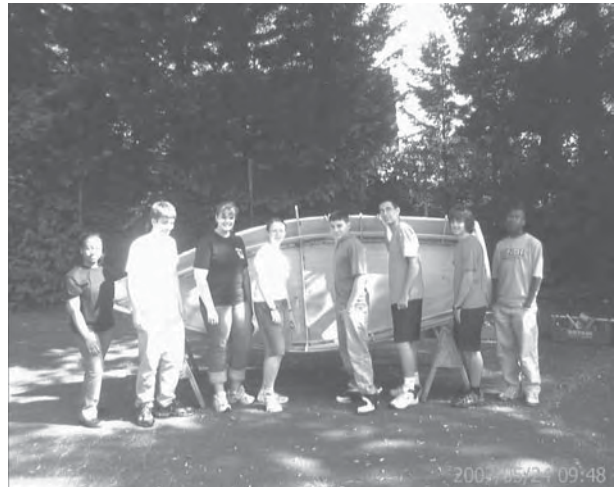
*Pull!*



*The building team and the disassembled "Renewable" Bevin Skiff*

## Immanuel Lutheran School

Howell Crim built a Bevin's Skiff with eighth-grade students from Immanuel Lutheran School in Alexandria. The launch happened over the sea wall at Waterfront Park in Old Town.



*The Builders*



*In the water, at a very high tide. Good timing.*

# Community Boat Building Cont...

## Log Canoe

The biggest (and the most work) was building the log canoe at Mt. Vernon with students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. With help from our apprentices and volunteers, the kids from TJ used technology ranging from stone tools and fire to computer modelling to build this boat.

The canoe was launched at Mt. Vernon on May 30th. It paddled well. The launch was a tremendous hit with the students. (It was only eclipsed by the school winning the state soccer championship a few weeks later.) As usual, the credit for the success of this project goes to our staff, particularly Howell Crim and Michael Wilson.

The boat will be displayed alongside John Smith's Shallop at the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival on the National Mall, June 27 through July 8.



*Burning the boat with clay as protective insulation*



*Chunking out the inside. Getting ready for the burn*



*The boat back at the shop for final shaping*



*Test drive*



*Down the ramp*

*Into the water!*



## Other News...

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### The Dory Boat

Volunteers Larry Sadler and Kevin Holland have been leading the work on the dory boat Potomac. This spring's major project was a new fuel tank. The Coast Guard-certified aluminum tank was fabricated in Florida. Many thanks go to Davis Craven of Waterway Diesel for coordinating the order and design of the tank.



*The 'Potomac' at the Seaport Center during this winter's ice*

### Al Cohen

Long-time member and volunteer Al Cohen died of leukemia this winter.

Al's work with ASF revolved around the maritime lecture series we had in partnership with the Lyceum. Former board chair, Bill Hundley cornered Al and convinced him to run the program. Al did a stellar job. The lectures Al put together are still talked about. Folks researching Alexandria's maritime history still are using them as sources.

Al, along with fellow ASF volunteer Phil Lewis, was an avid biker who would often stop on his trips to Mt. Vernon and elsewhere. We'll miss his visits.

### Grants to ASF in 2007 (to date)

Many thanks to the following foundations for supporting the work of ASF:

Alexandria Community Fund of the Alexandria Community Trust (ACT)  
 Alexandria Rotary Foundation, Inc.  
 Anthony Francis Lucas-Spindletop Foundation  
 Christopher and Mimi Conger Foundation (ACT)  
 Dockser Family Foundation  
 Jerome Kaplan and Deena L. Kaplan Family Foundation  
 Kiwanis Club of Alexandria, Virginia  
 Mangum Family Fund (Virginia Beach Foundation)  
 Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation  
 Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation  
 Ohrstrom Foundation  
 Starbucks Foundation  
 United Way Community Impact Fund  
 Washington Forrest Foundation

### Volunteers in the Office

We always tout the volunteers who help out in the shop and with tutoring. (As well we should, they give us over 8,000 volunteer hours per year.) This doesn't mean we could survive without the tremendous work done by our office volunteers. First off on that list is Nick Yannerall. For at least 15 years, Nick has been managing our membership and donation databases. The Seaport Foundation wouldn't exist if it wasn't for Nick. Lately, Nick has been getting some help. Our wonderful office administrator, Holly Hunsberger, has strong-armed two friends and former co-workers from the Congressional Research Service into helping re-vamp and update our databases. Shelley Harlan and Mallary Stouffer, along with Holly, have been spending parts of their weekends making our databases much more useful and accessible tools. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Holly has also put together another team to do similar update work on our website. The team, including Holly's husband David, her former boss Kevin Holland, and regular Tuesday night volunteer, Jason Uffelman, are working on making the site reflect the Seaport Foundation's work and making it easy to update. The lesson here might be that being related to, or a friend of Holly, is a dangerous position.

Last, but certainly not least, is Stan Deardorff. Stan voluntarily maintains and updates all our computer hardware and software. Challenges include managing computers regularly used by young people. Figuring out how to manage download content and still retain usable research access to the internet strongly resembles some of the problems faced by King Solomon. Lately, Stan's been working on combining our website, e-mail accounts and Yahoo group.

### Personnel Changes

There have been some personnel changes at the Seaport Foundation in the last few months. Two were permanent hires taking over for folks who had generously agreed to fill in on a short-term basis. The third was a plain old switch. From December through March, Joe Harriss, a retired Navy Captain, served as our hands-on-math and science teacher. Joe took our hands-on curriculum and integrated it with the online, Extra Learning program. Joe also went through all the materials available in Extra Learning and built a curriculum tailored to our apprentices. Although he'd never claim to be a great boat builder, Joe made a tremendous impact on the apprentices he worked with. One of them, Richard Bryan, is now working as a Field Engineer Trainee for Clark Concrete. Joe left us to work as a policy analyst for a non-profit that works with the Defense Department. We greatly appreciate his work and wish him all the luck in the world.

Joe's place has been filled by Steve Hernandez. Steve is familiar to anyone who has been involved with ASF. A former apprentice, U.S. Marine Helicopter crew chief and ASF instructor, Steve had been working as a journeyman Union Carpenter when he decided to come back to ASF. The pay is not as good, but the work is more fulfilling. Needless to say, we're glad to have him.

Marc Messing stepped into the huge hole that Paul Weeks left. Marc picked up both office work and then grant writing and reporting. All along, we'd known that Marc could only work with us through the spring. In April, John Sander, agreed to take over the grant writing. John is a stalwart volunteer who, along with Kevin Holland, put together our car donation program. Before coming to ASF, John was Chief Accounting Officer for the U.S. State Department. We're privileged to have someone of his capability working with us.

In March, we hired a new Director of Development to replace Rachel Marioneaux. Rachel had to leave us in January unexpectedly due to her art business taking off and health problems. Kathy Seifert has capably stepped into the breach. Kathy has worked for Nortell Systems and recently been very involved in fundraising for St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. She comes to ASF with the mission of building our individual and corporate friends program. Those of you who have met Kathy know she has tremendous energy. In her first two months, she's used that energy to coordinate several "Friends" events, schedule many others for the fall, help out on the golf tournament, and help develop the corporate team boat building event.

## Save the Dates!

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### Corporate Team Boat Building- September 28!

Get your "team" to come build a boat!

The Team Building Challenge offers a flexible platform from which many group dynamics can be experienced, reinforced, and demonstrated. Our facilitators will work with corporations to customize the day's events to best support individual objectives. For more information, please contact Kathy Seifert at the Seaport Center, or call 703-582-8480. Reserve your organization a spot today!

### Seaport Day

Seaport Day will be held on September 29. Families and friends will join together to enjoy a day of boat building, boat shows, model boat building, boat rides, and other activities. We hope you'll come out and join us in what is sure to be a wonderful community experience!

## Send us your E-Mail Address, Please!

Help us communicate with you more effectively by giving us your e-mail address and setting your e-mail to accept mail from [asffice@alexandriaseaport.org](mailto:asffice@alexandriaseaport.org). We promise not to clog your mailbox with needless messages. Sometimes, items of interest come up quickly and we'd like to keep you in the loop. For example, when local news stations turned up for the launch of our log canoe, we only had enough notice to send out an e-mail asking Members and Friends to tune in. Send your e-mail address to [asffice@alexandriaseaport.org](mailto:asffice@alexandriaseaport.org). Thanks!

## Don't Hesitate: Re-Designate!

The United Way and CFC have given ASF a new number. We are now **61282**.

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